



# The Indianapolis Radio Club Newsletter

Founded 1914

---

## *February 2023 Newsletter*

---

### **Upcoming:**

**March 10:** A history of central Indiana repeaters, hosted by Mike Sercer, WA9FDO. AT SALVATION ARMY EDS FACILITY

**April 14:** Tim Duffy, K3LR, from DX Engineering presenting “Going forward for DXing Operations” VIA ZOOM

**May 12:** Dave Gingrich, K9DC, with "IRLP - Nuts and bolts, how to get on IRLP with your radio" VIA ZOOM

---

### **Highlights from the February Meeting:**

Called to order at 7:30 pm via Zoom by club president, David Spoelstra, N9KT. There were 30 in attendance. In attendance were new ham and member of the club, Paul Harsin, KD9VMX, and Michael Laird, W9LME, first time attendee from Logansport.

In his announcements, David said that everyone should get on the air. Solar flux was 215! David talked a little about the Bouvet Island DXpedition, 3Y0J.

Next David introduced Dave Arland for his annual CES talk. Dave said that he is a grandpa now to Oliver, born on Dec. 2. Dave, in reflecting on his history with RCA, said that he found “Nipper”, the venerable “His Master’s Voice” trademark dog from RCA at the show. Dave said that this 2023 show was back to almost pre-pandemic levels of attendance, with 3200+ exhibitors and 117,000 attendees this year, compared with 2020

(pre pandemic), when attendance was 170,000. He said there were long lines and full hotels this year.

Dave continues to work with the new Advanced Television standards group. Locally, WXIN is transmitting using NEXTGEN (ATSC 3.0) technology. NEXTGEN allows WXIN to broadcast 4 stations' (WXIN, WTTV, WTHR, and WRTV) content from their tower. Check [here](#) for more information on what's going on in Indy. Dave showed a [ZapperBox](#) ATSC 3.0 tuner that he recently acquired.

Dave said that to a great extent CES is a new vehicle show, 2nd only to the Detroit Auto Show. He talked about a venture between Sony and Honda, the [Afeela](#) vehicle that he saw at CES. He said the Indiana Economic Development Corp was there with an autonomous race car, among other things. There was a Hydrogen powered Semi-tractor exhibited. Caterpillar even had a huge electric ore hauler type truck on display. He said there was an enormous yacht on display, which was a first for CES.

Chinese manufacturer [Hisense](#) had a 110" 8K TV with an integral NEXTGEN tuner. The world's largest TV manufacturer, [TCL](#), had a large display, as did LG and Samsung. Dave said there were lots of gaming displays at the LG booth. LG also had their "[Mood Up](#)" [refrigerator](#), a transparent OLED display, as well as other innovative products, such as a microwave that has a television screen as the door.

Eureka Park now has hundreds of booths where countries display and promote themselves and their latest innovations. He saw the [Clarimate](#), which is a device that allows a clarinet player to practice silently.

There were bluetooth enabled earrings that Dave tried. There was a tabletop dishwasher named "Bob the dishwasher", and Bob's friend, the tabletop oven, "Joe the oven", both from Daan Tech, a French-based startup.

One of the things that Dave thought would be very popular was [Birdbuddy](#), a bird feeder with a camera embedded. The camera automatically snaps a picture when a bird comes up and identifies the bird on its app. He showed a \$7500 massage chair that was on display that he tried out. One of the more "interesting" things he saw was a table-top radio with fake tubes sticking out of its top from Crosley.

Dave entertained questions from those in attendance at this point. To demonstrate the scale of the event, he said that CES takes up the equivalent of 45 Lucas Oil Stadiums!

The meeting adjourned to casual conversation at 8:50.

## **Ham Radio News:**

### **LONG TIME MEMBER ED TAYLOR PASSES**

Dr. Ed Taylor, who was a life member of the Indianapolis Radio Club for over 20 years, even though he was not a ham, passed away on December 1, 2022. He was 98 years old. Ed was an electrical engineer and radio historian. He oversaw the electrical metrology lab for the P.R. Mallory Co., retiring in 1989 after 45 years. The Mallory company holds two of Ed's patent disclosures. He owned the Taylor Electrical Laboratory and established the Ed Taylor Radio Museum to house his collection of antique wireless, radio, and electrical artifacts. He was the founder of the Indiana Historical Radio Society. Ed was also a musician, playing organ, harpsichord and Theremin. Ed's full obituary can be found at

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/name/edmund-taylor-obituary?id=38300477>

### **SKYWARN SPOTTER TRAINING CLASSES**

It's that time of year again. It's a good idea to catch up on the latest from the National Weather Service every couple of years or so. Go to <https://www.weather.gov/ind/spotter#train> to see the complete schedule of sessions for central Indiana. There are two sessions scheduled for Marion County, as well as a couple of virtual classes. Notice that some sessions, including the virtual ones, require registration.

### **UPDATED GENERAL TEST QUESTION POOL IN EFFECT JULY 1**

The newly revised general pool will be used starting July 1, 2023. VECs and VEs will have new test designs available starting on that date. Previously supplied versions of ARRL VEC General-class exam booklets (2019 series) and computer-generated General-class exams from the 2019 question pool are valid until midnight on June 30, 2023. The ARRL VEC will supply its officially appointed, field-stocked VE teams with new General exam booklet designs around mid-June.

## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR 500 FESTIVAL MINI MARATHON**

***This note was received from Brent Walls, N9BA:***

“Please allow me to introduce myself. My name is Brent Walls and my amateur radio callsign is N9BA. I am coordinating amateur radio communications support for the 2023 500 Festival Mini Marathon on Saturday May 6th. This is one of the most iconic mini marathons in the nation and I need your help getting the word out to potential volunteers in your club. To fully support this event, we will need 70+ amateur radio operators.

Amateur radio operators will be stationed at pit stops (medical and water), at mile markers, the finish line area and other strategic locations. Our primary mission is to provide communications support to the medical and logistical operations for overall public safety. This is a great opportunity to showcase our capabilities to the 500 Festival, public safety partners and the general public.

I would like to ask you to share this opportunity with your club members and encourage them to consider volunteering to support this event. All they need is a dual band (VHF/UHF) radio capable of operating up to 6 hours (extra batteries). Most assignments will be handheld friendly as we will use local repeaters for most communications. The operational period for all amateur radio operators begins at 0630 and will be a staggered release no later than 1230.

Anyone interested in volunteering can use the link below to register as an amateur radio communicator for this event.

<https://forms.office.com/r/jM35QxffzD>

Anyone with questions can contact me directly by e-mail at [bwalls5@outlook.com](mailto:bwalls5@outlook.com) and I will be glad to answer their questions.

Regards,  
Brent Walls N9BA”

## **IN PERSON CLASSES**

The Hancock Amateur Radio Club will be sponsoring a Technician License course. All classes will be held in Greenfield, IN at the Hancock Public Library, 900 W McKenzie

Rd. Classes will start on March 6th and be held from 5:45pm to 7:45pm. This course will last for 6 weeks- one 2 hour session each Monday evening. Click [here](#) for all details.

## **QRZ AND GIGAPARTS ANNOUNCE NEW HAM PROGRAM**

You might remember the deal QRZ and GigaParts offered late last year to get a free radio to new hams. Well, the deal is back, basically. This time RT Systems has joined QRZ and GigaParts. The new ham (licensed for 6 months or less) gets the following for \$21.99: Explorer QRZ-1 Handheld radio, Programming cable, RT Systems Programming Software, Premium QRZ Subscription. That is over \$150 worth of stuff for just over \$20! The program is scheduled to go through the end of March. Complete details can be found at <https://www.gigaparts.com/qrzjumpstart>

## **TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW FOR HAMVENTION**

Advance sale tickets for Hamvention, May 19 through 21 in Xenia, OH are on sale now via the Hamvention website at <https://hamvention.org/purchase-tickets/>. Advance sale tickets are priced at \$26 each. Tickets at the gate will be \$30.

## **GEAR FOR SALE BY KC9NRO**

Club member Greg Herman, KC9NRO, submitted the following:

“Time to clean up the shack to get ready for Hamvention, time to sell some stuff on eBay. I thought I would try the local club first to offer them a discount.

I have an ammo box repeater for sale for \$800.

It is a repeater I built, using ICOM radios and a duplexer.

It is stored in an ammo box, you simply remove the lid, plug in power and an antenna and you’re immediately deployed. It is currently tuned for GMRS, frequency 462.7/467.7

But wait, there’s more

West mountain radio

ISOpwr

PWRgate PG40S

PWRguard

All 3 for \$100

Powerwerx AP03 automatic power off, \$20

Solar controllers

Sunkeeper 12

Sunsaver 20L

Both for \$50

Please send email to [kc9nro@gmail.com](mailto:kc9nro@gmail.com) if interested”

## **ANYONE MISSING A BALLOON?**

As you may have heard, the US Air Force has lately used some possibly hobby balloons for target practice. See full story at

<https://aviationweek.com/defense-space/aircraft-propulsion/hobby-clubs-missing-balloon-feared-shot-down-usaf>

## **DUES PAYMENT INFORMATION UPDATE**

The new PayPal account that has been set up for the Indianapolis Radio Club is working great. To simplify dues payments, you can click on the “Donate” button on the page at <https://indyradioclub.org/membership.html>. The former PayPal account, [treasurer@indyradioclub.org](mailto:treasurer@indyradioclub.org), has been shut down. A nice feature of the new account is you don’t even need a PayPal account to use it. You can pay with any credit or debit card, if you prefer. Note that none of your card info is seen by the club.

Annual dues to the Indianapolis Radio Club are payable any time. If you are currently paid-up, any payment made now will extend your membership by another year. You can always check your current membership status by going to

<https://tinyurl.com/radio-club-members>. Individual dues are \$20 per year, family dues (for all family members residing at the same address) are \$30 per year, Student membership (with valid student ID) is \$10. Dues can be paid by following this [link](#), cash at a meeting, or check (made out to Indianapolis Radio Club) either at a meeting or mailed to: Indianapolis Radio Club, 7405 E. County Road 900 N, Brownsburg, IN 46112.

## **CLUB COMMISSION PROGRAM**

There have been several requests for details regarding the "Club Commission Program", where the club gets a commission on most ARRL dues paid through the club. In order to have your ARRL dues benefit the club, print out and fill out the form at <https://tinyurl.com/ARRL-membership-form> (unfortunately this is not a "fillable" PDF, so it will need to be completed off line).

Then you can do one of the following:

- Bring the completed form, along with a check made out to ARRL for the appropriate amount to the March meeting, or;
- Mail the completed form, along with your check made out to ARRL to me at 7405 E County Road 900N, Brownsburg, IN 46112, or;
- Scan the completed form and email it to me at [treasurer@indyradioclub.org](mailto:treasurer@indyradioclub.org), then go to <https://tinyurl.com/irc-dues-payment> and click on "other" and send the appropriate amount to the club. The club will send a check on your behalf to the ARRL.

### NOTES:

The commission is only available for REGULAR memberships. Life, Family, International, Blind, and Student memberships are not eligible for a commission. Even though you can save a couple bucks on multi-year memberships, if you only do a 1 year membership, the club can get a commission each year you renew.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

## **UPCOMING CENTRAL INDIANA TESTING SESSIONS (check with sponsor before planning to attend)**

Anderson IN 46016-2238

Sponsor: Anderson Repeater Club

Date: Feb 21 2023

Time: 7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

Contact: Stephen M. Riley

(765) 425-4627

Email: [wa9cwe@arrl.net](mailto:wa9cwe@arrl.net)

VEC: ARRL/VEC

Location: Madison County EMA EOC

200 N Delaware St

Anderson IN 46016-2238  
Website: <http://www.andersonrepeater.club/>

Gas City IN 46933-1155  
Sponsor: GCARC  
Date: Feb 28 2023  
Time: 5:00 PM (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)  
Contact: Mitchell D. Miller  
(765) 661-5893  
Email: [mitchmiller55@gmail.com](mailto:mitchmiller55@gmail.com)  
VEC: ARRL/VEC  
Location: EMA Building  
3921 S Garthwaite Rd  
Pre-register only, contact ahead  
Gas City IN 46933-1155  
Website: <http://www.grantarc.org/>

Indianapolis IN 46218-2169  
Sponsor: Indianapolis Radio club W9JP  
Date: Mar 11 2023  
Time: 12:00 PM (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)  
Contact: James K. Rinehart  
(317) 721-1458  
Email: [k9ru@arrl.net](mailto:k9ru@arrl.net)  
VEC: ARRL/VEC  
Location: Salvation Army EDS Training Facility  
4020 Georgetown Rd  
Indianapolis IN 46218-2169

Greenfield IN 46140-9654  
Sponsor: Hancock County ARC  
Date: Mar 18 2023  
Time: 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)  
Contact: David Keiser  
(317) 440-8486  
Email: [kc9urp@hrtc.net](mailto:kc9urp@hrtc.net)  
VEC: ARRL/VEC  
Location: Hancock EMA EOC  
640 South Franklin St

Greenfield IN 46140-9654

Anderson IN 46016-2238  
Sponsor: Anderson Repeater Club  
Date: Mar 21 2023  
Time: 7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)  
Contact: Stephen M. Riley  
(765) 425-4627  
Email: [wa9cwe@arrl.net](mailto:wa9cwe@arrl.net)  
VEC: ARRL/VEC  
Location: Madison County EMA EOC  
200 N Delaware St  
Anderson IN 46016-2238  
Website: <http://www.andersonrepeater.club/>

Gas City IN 46933-1155  
Sponsor: GCARC  
Date: Mar 28 2023  
Time: 5:00 PM (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)  
Contact: Mitchell D. Miller  
(765) 661-5893  
Email: [mitchmiller55@gmail.com](mailto:mitchmiller55@gmail.com)  
VEC: ARRL/VEC  
Location: EMA Building  
3921 S Garthwaite Rd  
Pre-register only, contact ahead  
Gas City IN 46933-1155  
Website: <http://www.grantarc.org/>

## **FEEL FREE TO SHARE OUR NEWSLETTER**

If you belong to any other radio groups, please feel free to share our newsletter with them. They can also sign up to be on our mailing list by filling out the form available at [http://mail.indyradioclub.org/mailman/listinfo/ircnews\\_indyradioclub.org](http://mail.indyradioclub.org/mailman/listinfo/ircnews_indyradioclub.org).

## **SEND ME YOUR HAM RADIO NEWS**

If anyone has any items for the newsletter, please send them to Ken Bandy at [kj9b@arrl.net](mailto:kj9b@arrl.net)

## **Signals from the Past:**

### **From the February, 1963 AMA-CHEWER:**

ANNOUNCEMENT IS HEREBY MADE OF THE ADDITION TO THE ARRL COUNTRIES LIST OF BOUVET ISLAND. BOUVET ISLAND IS LOCATED IN SOUTH ATLANTIC OCEAN APPROXIMATELY 1600 MILES SOUTH OF CAPE OF GOOD HOPE, LATITUDE 54 DEGREES SOUTH AND LONGITUDE 5 DEGREES EAST. BOUVET ISLAND IS NORWEGIAN TERRITORY. DXCC CREDIT CLAIMS MAY BE MADE FOR THIS ADDITION STARTING MAY 1, 1963.

*[Kind of timely, given the recently completed 3Y0J DXpedition. - Ed.]*

---

## **Upcoming Area Radio Events:**

- Dugger Hamfest: February 25 at the Dugger Community Building. Contact Jonathan Olvey KD9AMN, Phone: 812-691-1653 or email [jonolvey@gmail.com](mailto:jonolvey@gmail.com)
- La Porte Cabin Fever Hamfest: February 25 at the La Porte Civic Auditorium. Go to <https://lpcarc.org/hamfest/> for more info.
- Wabash Valley ARA Hamfest: March 11 at the Clay County 4H Fairgrounds, Brazil, IN. For more info, go to <https://www.w9uuu.org/hamfest.php>

## **2023 Officers:**

- President: David Spoelstra, N9KT – [president@indyradioclub.org](mailto:president@indyradioclub.org)
- Vice Pres.: Dave Miller, K9RTT - [vp@indyradioclub.org](mailto:vp@indyradioclub.org)
- Secretary/Treasurer: Ken Bandy, KJ9B - [secretary@indyradioclub.org](mailto:secretary@indyradioclub.org)
- Dir. at large: Jim Rinehart, K9RU – [board@indyradioclub.org](mailto:board@indyradioclub.org)
- Dir. at large: Kyle Bandy, KC9GLR - [board@indyradioclub.org](mailto:board@indyradioclub.org)
- Dir. at large: Kevin Colbert, KD9MNB - [board@indyradioclub.org](mailto:board@indyradioclub.org)
- W9JP Trustee: Jay Kraus, W9TC - [w9jp.trustee@indyradioclub.org](mailto:w9jp.trustee@indyradioclub.org)